

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 287

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing and honoring the life of the late Raúl Juliá, his dedication to ending world hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino community and the performing arts.

Whereas Raúl Juliá made his Broadway debut just a few weeks after arriving in New York City in 1964 in Calderon's "Life is a Dream";

Whereas Raúl Juliá, after only 3 years of living in New York City, was instrumental opening doors for nontraditional parts for Hispanic actors by taking the role of Demetrius in Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus" at the New York Shakespeare Festival and Cradeau in Sartre's "No Exit";

Whereas Raúl Juliá was the busiest Hispanic Shakespearean actor in New York and the first to establish a decades-long association with Joseph Papp and the New York Shakespeare Festival;

Whereas Raúl Juliá began an impressive and productive 28-year association with Joseph Papp and the New York Shakespeare Festival as Macduff in the Festival's Mobile Unit, Spanish language production of MacBeth;

Whereas Raúl Juliá became the first Puerto Rican actor to conquer Broadway stages by having his work be nominated for 4 different Tony Awards in 10 years: "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "Where's Charley?", "Threepenny Opera", and "Nine";

Whereas Raúl Juliá provided a role model for millions of children in his role as "Rafael, the Fix-It Man" in Sesame Street;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a dedicated leader in the fight against the rising rates of teen violence and cosponsored scriptwriting competitions for high school students as a way to encourage teenagers to express their emotions through art rather than through violence;

Whereas Raúl Juliá's dedication to help Hispanic-American film and television writers develop their work led him to co-found the Latino Playwrights Reading Workshops;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was instrumental in the formation of the now legendary Puerto Rico Traveling Theater, an off-Broadway nonprofit Puerto Rican theater that to this day continues to promote and showcase bilingual plays, new Hispanic playwrights and Spanish-speaking actors while bringing theater to those who cannot ordinarily afford it;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a leader in the entertainment industry, particularly as a tireless mentor and role model to emerging Latino actors;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was a dedicated activist and humanitarian who in his lifetime became a major supporter and spokesperson for the Hunger Project, a nonprofit organization committed to the eradication of world hunger;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was tireless in his commitment to the Puerto Rican film industry and to the making of Spanish language films and continued to participate in small, independent, Spanish-language films even after having become a Hollywood star;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was an extremely successful stage, film and television actor who never abandoned his Puerto Rican heritage, never changed his name and never gave up his accent, thereby becoming an enduring role model for hundreds of Latino actors;

Whereas Raúl Juliá received the Hispanic Heritage Award recognizing his many career achievements for the Latino community, including his involvement in “La Familia”, a New York City outreach program for Latino families in need, the Puerto Rican traveling theater, the Museo del Barrio, and the New York Shakespeare Festival;

Whereas Raúl Juliá received the National Board of Review Best Actor prize for his interpretation of the political prisoner Valentin in the award-winning landmark film “The Kiss of the Spider Woman”, an award he shared with his co-star William Hurt;

Whereas Raúl Juliá posthumously received the prestigious Emmy Award, Cable Ace Award, Golden Globe Award, and the SAG Award, given by his fellow actors for his most famous roles including Chico Mendes in “The Burning Season”;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was proud of his Puerto Rican heritage and his life and work reflected his strong commitment to his culture and the people of Puerto Rico;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was given a state funeral in Puerto Rico and since that time there have been many awards and honors created in his name: a scholarship at Julliard, a scholarship given to a promising young actor for the purpose of studying and performing Shakespeare at the Joseph Papp Public Theater, the Raúl Juliá Award for Excellence given annually by the National Endowment for the Hispanic Arts in Washington, DC, El Teatro Raúl Juliá in San Juan Puerto Rico, and the Raúl Juliá Global Citizen Award, an annual award being given this year for the first time by the Puerto Rican Family Institute based in New York City;

Whereas Raúl Juliá was recognized by the Mayor of the City of New York with the creation of Raúl Juliá Day which was celebrated and commemorated in conjunction with Puerto Rican Heritage and Culture Month on November 21, 1994: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That the Congress recognizes and honors the
- 3 life of the late Raúl Juliá, his dedication to ending world

- 1 hunger, and his great contributions to the Latino commu-
- 2 nity and the performing arts.

Passed the House of Representatives February 25,
2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.